

S K E T C H

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T O U R

T H R O U G H

S W I S S E R L A N D.

WITH AN ACCURATE MAP.

M. S. R.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Tour is intended to fall within the compass of the Generality: and is chiefly transcribed from a journal written on the spot. Whoever would penetrate deeper into the natural beauties, and variety of political constitutions, in this interesting country, must consult Mr. Coxe's travels, M. De Luc's letters, M. De Saussure's voyages dans les Alpes, Dictionnaire de la Suisse, &c.

T. M. *K*

11 JY 63

SKETCH of a TOUR, &c.

IF in going from the south of France into Italy, you should arrive at Geneva * early in the spring, you cannot do better than to make some stay in that city, and to spend the summer in a tour through Swisserland.

A 3

GENEVA

* From Lyon to Geneva.

	Posts.	Miles.	Time.	
	<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>'</i>
From Lyon to Mirabel	1½	9	1	10
				The Rhone on the right, and the road close under sand hills to the left.
Montluel	1	5	4	1 15
Meximieux	1½	7	6	1 15
St. Denys (a)	1½	7	1	1 30
St. Jean le vieux	1	5	7	50
Cerdon	1½	8	2	1 25
				Country pleasant. Road romantic between rocks and the river: country delightful: castles frequent.
St. Martin du Fresne	1½	7	3	2 20
				Ascend the mountains by a road practised along their sides, close to a precipice: beneath are fine vallies, woods and meadows.
Nantua	1	4	4	38
				A fine lake with trout, and good reception at the Miller's.
St. Germain le Joux	1½	7	7	1 20
				Another fine lake.

(a) Lion d'or.

Chatillon

A 3

GENEVA is on the confines of Savoy, France and Swisserland, in $46^{\circ} 12' 9''$ north latitude. It is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Rhone, just where it emerges from the lake. The streets are in general wide, clean and well paved: the principal street however is encumbered with a row of shops on each side, between the carriage and foot way; which last is very wide, and protected from the weather by great wooden penthouses, projecting from the roofs; these are very convenient, but give the street a dark and dull appearance. The houses are generally built of

	Posts.	Miles.	Time.	
		<i>m. f. h. '</i>		
Chatillon	1	4 5	1	
Avanchy	1½	7 2	2 10	The Perte de Rhone, near Coupy, a quarter of a league above the post-house.
Coulonges	1½	6 6	2 5	Fort la Cluse.
				Thus far high mountains, overrun with box, &c. little vallies with herbage and cattle. Road narrow, by the side of precipices, with the Rhone foaming in the bottom.
St. Genis	2	9 3	3 3	Leave the mountains.
GENEVE (b)	1	7 1	1 2	
	19	96 3	21 3	

(b) Hotel d'Angleterre at Secheron, and Balances within the city: both good inns.

free-

free-stone, with lime-stone basements: the gutters, spouts, ridges and outward ornaments are of *fer blanc*, which we improperly call tin.

The *Maison de Ville*, or Town-house, is a large, plain, ancient building; with great rooms for the Councils to assemble in, and for public entertainments; in one of them there is a weekly concert by subscription during the winter season. You mount to the upper story, not by steps, but by a paved ascent, so gentle, that horses and mules easily go up and down.

There are five Churches here, besides French, Italian and German Chapels; none of them however have any thing to attract attention, except St. Peter's, formerly the Cathedral. This is an ancient Gothic building, with a modern portico of seven large columns of red and white marble from Roche, and of the Corinthian order. The inside is plain, and the only thing observable is the tomb of Henry, Duke of Rohan.

The *Academy* has about 600 scholars, and 11 professors. Small medals are annually distributed to those who have distinguished themselves in each class, by the first Syndic, in a publick meeting at the cathedral.

The *Public Library* has near 40,000 volumes of printed books, besides a good collection of manuscripts. The citizens have the liberty both of resorting here, and borrowing books. It is ornamented with portraits of the reformers, and other celebrated men, among which that of Mayerne the physician, by Rubens, must have the preference.

The *Arsenal* is in good order, and furnished with arms for 12,000 men. Here are also many ancient suits of armour; and the scaling-ladders, lanterns, hatchets, standards, &c. recall to the friends of liberty the abortive attempt of the Savoyards upon the city in the year 1602. In the magazines they have 110 cannons and mortars.

The *Hospital* is a large handsome building. Near 4000 poor are maintained by this, and the French purse.

The publick *Fountains* are supplied by an hydraulic engine, which raises the water from the river above 100 Paris feet.

Collections of Natural History are, that belonging to the publick library, which is not very considerable. M. de Saussure's, very ample. M. de Luc's, well arranged, and rich in petrifactions. M. Ami Rilliet's, very orderly, with
a good

a good suite of lithology. M. Paul Gaussen's, M. Gougaz's, &c.

The *Fortifications* are in the modern style on the side of Savoy, but are commanded by some of the neighbouring ground. On the side of France, they are old fashioned. They are calculated rather to prevent a surprise, than to sustain a regular siege. They have three gates, towards France, Savoy and Switzerland. All access by the lake is barred by a double jetty and chain. The garrison consists of 720 men, Swiss or Germans*.

The *population* of this state is about 30,000, of which near 5000 are supposed to be absent; of the remainder 5000 are capable of bearing arms: these form a militia, and the age of service is from 16 to 60†.

The Sovereign power resides in the general assembly of Citizens and Burgeſſes, who have attained the age of 25 years. The executive

* A guard of four companies, is changed on the Treille every day at noon, one of the Syndics giving the word of command. One company does duty at each gate, and the fourth mounts guard at the Town-hall. Their uniform is blue, faced and lined with red, white waistcoats, and hats laced with white. The officers wear blue laced with silver, and scarlet waistcoats.

† The uniform is grey, faced with red.

power, and administration of justice, are intrusted, 1. To the Council of XXV. called the Senate or Little Council. 2. The Council of LX. 3. The Council of CC. comprehending the other two, and consisting now of 250 members. The supreme Magistrates are four Syndics, elected annually, by the general assembly. Other officers are, 1. the Lieutenant, chosen also annually. 2. The Treasurer, elected for three years. 3. The Procurator General, also for three years *. Inferior departments of government and police are managed by Committees, called *Chambers*.

The Ecclesiastical Constitution is purely Presbyterian, and the most tolerating of all the Reformed States. The Ministers are either *Pastors*, with cure of souls; or *Postulants*, that is Probationers. The State takes the tithes, and pays the Clergy a stipend, not exceeding fifty pounds a year. Ministers are not ordained 'till they are 24 years of age. The Clergy assemble every Friday, on matters purely ecclesiastical: but the *Consistory* has, besides the Pastors, some lay assessors from the

* The Syndics are elected the first Sunday in January; the Lieutenant and Auditors on the first Sunday in November; in St. Peter's Church.

councils,

councils, with a Syndic presiding. Divorces seem to be their principal business.

The revenues of government are about 500,000 French livres, or little more than 20,000 pounds sterling. This is raised from the domains of the state, tenths, quit-rents, fines or alienations, a tax on personal effects, a poll-tax, customs and duties on goods entering or passing through the city, tolls at bridges, &c. Salaries of the Syndics are between seventy and eighty pounds. Members of the Little Council have forty-five pounds. The Garrison costs 130,000 livres. Repairs of the public buildings, fortifications and roads, charges of the Police, &c. make up the rest of the annual charges.

The law of the State is the Roman law, with some modifications. They have no titles of nobility or hereditary dignities.

Their arts and manufactures are, watch-making, jewellery, printing cottons and linens, printing books, dressing leather, and some other smaller articles.

Since the late troubles, a theatre has been built within the city. The only public diversions besides this are two concerts. Private balls are not unfrequent; and plays are sometimes

times performed by gentlemen and ladies. The chief amusement is cards, at which the women constantly play in their societies, tea-drinkings and assemblies. Most of the men meet daily in their circles or clubs. The 12th of December is a kind of state holiday, kept in memory of the Duke of Savoy's attempt upon the city; and called the day of the *Escalade*. In fine weather, there is a great resort to the *Treille* and other public walks.

The territory of Geneva contains about seven square leagues, and is divided into nine parishes. The principal villages are *Coligni*, on the south bank of the lake, and on an eminence, commanding an extensive and beautiful prospect. *Vandœuvre* farther east. *Chêne*, more to the south; a large village, through which runs a brook, dividing the territory of the republic from Savoy. *Sacconex* a pretty village on the other side of the lake; with *Secheron* and *Paquis*, almost contiguous to the city.

The detached parts of the territory are *Jussy*, containing three villages. *Cartagny*, *Chancy*, and two other villages on the Rhone. The Commandery of *Dardagny*, also on the Rhone; containing two parishes, *Dardagny* and

and *Satigny*. *Gentou*, on the lake, a pleasant village, commanding a fine prospect, across the lake and the *Chablais*, to the mountains. *Seligni*, still farther, on the north bank of the lake, where many of the rich *Genevois* have their country houses; The country round *Geneva* is so varied, that every village and *campagne* presents fresh beauties, arising from the different points of view in which the lake, mountains, and the country present themselves.

The *Lake* of *Geneva* is chiefly a dependant of the canton of *Berne*; it is bounded by the *Pays de Vaud*, belonging to that canton; the duchy of *Chablais*, part of the King of *Sardinia*'s dominions; the territories of *Geneva*; and the *Pays de Gex*, belonging to *France*: at the southern extremity it touches on the *Valais*. The form of it, is that of a crescent, with the horns blunted: the length from *Geneva* to *Villeneuve* is eighteen French leagues and three quarters; the greatest breadth is 7,500 toises, or three leagues and a quarter. It is very shallow near *Geneva*, but off *Meillerie* is found to be 950 French feet in depth. This lake owes the chief part of its waters to the *Rhone*, which enters it near *Villeneuve*, and goes out of it again at *Geneva*. There are, however,

however, no less than thirty-one rivers or torrents, and nine nameless brooks, besides the Rhone, that furnish their respective little quotas. The great melting of ice and snow in the mountains, occasions the lake to be five or six feet higher in summer than in winter; at which season it never freezes. Its extent, the clearness of its waters, the variety and beauty of the country on its banks, make it deservedly esteemed one of the finest lakes in Europe.

Strangers are no where provided with a greater variety of coin, than at Geneva; the money of almost every country in Europe being current here: they have also different ways of reckoning, by livres and livres current.

The pistole of gold, worth ten livres of Geneva, is rarely seen.

Ecu of silver.

Pieces of 21 sols, and $10\frac{1}{2}$ sols both silver.

The livre is nominal, and worth two florins.

The florin is worth 10 sols of France, or 12 of Geneva.

Pieces of 6 and 3 sols, $1\frac{1}{2}$ sol, $\frac{3}{4}$ sol, and $\frac{1}{2}$ sol; this last is worth 6 deniers of France, or 2 gros of this country. These are all copper washed.

The

The Louis d'or is worth 14 livres, 10 sols or Geneva.

French Ecu, worth 3 livres 12½ sols of Geneva.

Three livres current of Geneva are worth from 52½ to 56 pence English, according to the course of exchange.

The dress of the men at Geneva is chiefly broad cloth, without lace or trimmings, except frogs; that of the women is silk in winter, and printed cottons, which they call *Indiennes*, in summer.

The situation of Geneva being extremely healthy and delightful, and society of all sorts good, it cannot but be a desirable place of residence for a stranger: the French language is well spoken here, and there is also the most perfect liberty both civil and religious.

S W I S S E R L A N D.

The tour through Swisserland will take from six weeks to four months, according to the extent of it, the degree of curiosity in the party, or the activity of their movements. It can only be accomplished with pleasure and effect, between

tween the beginning of May, and the middle or end of September.

The post is not general through Swisserland, and therefore you will hire horses either at Geneva, or at the first town where you find no post*.

It is impossible to describe a tour which shall suit every body; for travellers set out at different times, from different places; they do not

* You pay for draught-horses a French crown by the day, and for saddle horses, half-a-crown each, the owner paying all expences: the driver expects 13 or 14 batz a day, and maintains himself. There is only one postillion here to four horses, as in Germany; he rides on the near wheel horse, and drives the leaders with reins.

Dinner at *Table d'hôte*, or ordinaries, is about two shillings a head; in your chamber double: they always charge for the apartments besides; and, upon the whole, travelling is dear: you live much better, however, than in England for the same money.

The Swiss count chiefly by livres or Francs and Batz.

The gold ducat of Berne is worth 72 batz, or 10 livres 16 sols of France.

The Swiss livre is worth 10 batz, or 30 French sols.

The Ecu or French crown is worth 4 Swiss livres, or 20 batz: and $7\frac{1}{2}$ batz are equivalent to 22 sols French.

One batz is worth 3 sols, and 20 batz make an ecu.

Twenty-one sol pieces are common in the canton of Berne.

In the county of Neuchatel little pieces of old French money are current under the title of *Piecettes*.

Each canton coins its own small base money, which is current, only in that canton.

all

all travel in the same manner, have not all the same time to spare, cannot all bear the same fatigue, nor afford the same expence; tastes also vary so much, that the same things are not equally interesting to all. I am not able to say that the following tour is absolutely the best that might be made; but I apprehend, with some trifling variations, it will suit the generality of travellers. I suppose you to set out from Geneva, and to coast the lake to Lausanne; from thence to strike across to the lake of Neuchatel, by Yverdun and Neuchatel; next to Bienne, and from thence to Bale, Schaffhausen and Constance; by Winterthur to Zurich; by Baden to Lucerne; by Soleure to Berne. Hence to the glaciers of Grindelwald, &c. returning to Berne: from this city by Morat and Avenche to Fribourg, Bulle, Vevey, Aigle, Bex, S. Maurice and Martigni, to Chamouni and the glaciers of Savoy; from whence it is an easy journey again to Geneva.*

In

* Mr. Coxe came from Germany to Schaffhausen, Constance, St. Gallen, Canton of Appenzel, Rheinthal, Wallenstadt, Canton of Glaris, Abbey of Einsiedlen, Rapperschwyl, Zurich, Zug, Lucerne, Cantons of Uri, Schwitz and Unterwalden, Mount St. Gothard, Furca, Grimsel, Vale of Hasli, Grindelwald, Lauterbrunn, Mount Gemmi, Baths of Leuk, Valais,

In going from Geneva to Lausanne, you soon quit the territories of the Republic for those of France. You will not, however, be long among dirt and beggary, in the *Pays de Gex*, before you come to the beautiful village of *Gentou*, belonging to the Genevois. A little beyond this is *Versoy*, where the French designed, some years since, to have made a port and built a town, which was to rival, and even to eclipse Geneva. They have a guard here, but no fortifications. On the left appears *Ferney*, where the late celebrated M. de Voltaire had his *chateau*.

Valais, Sion, Martinac, St. Maurice, Bex, Mont Blanc and Glaciers of Savoy, Geneva, and Pais de Vaud, Lausanne, Vevay, Valley of the Lake of Joux, Orbe, Yverdun, Neuchâtel, Colombier, Mountains of Valengin, Locle, la Chaud de Fond, Morat, Avenches, Fribourg, Berne, Langnau, Payerne, Moudon, Geneva, Bienne, Soleure, Basile.

The tour of a late French traveller was from Alsace to Bale, Schaffhausen, Constance, Zurich, Baden, Berne, Soleure, Bienne, Neuchâtel, Yverdun, Orbe, Lausanne, Vevay, Moudon, Payerne, Avenches, Morat, Berne, Lucerne, Zug, Rapperschwy, Utznach, Liechtensteig, Herisau, St Gall, Lindau, Bregentz, Rheineck, Appenzell, Sargans, Mayenfeld, Pfeffers, Wallenstat, Glaris, Einsidlen, Schwitz, Gerfaw, Altorf, St. Gothard, Airolo, La Fourche, Grimsel, Meyringen, Grindelwald, Lauterbrunn, Thunn, Berne, Fribourg, Vevay, Aigle, Bex, Martigny, Trient, Valorine, Chamouni, Martigny, S. Bernard.

Leaving

Leaving Verfoy, you soon enter the *Pays de Vaud*, where the first place of any consideration is *Coppet*, two leagues from Geneva. It is a *bourg*, inclosed with walls, in an agreeable and fruitful country, abounding in orchards and vineyards. Above the town is the castle of the Baron. In going from hence to Nyon, you pass by *Seligni*.

NYON* is one of the four principal towns of the *Pays de Vaud*. It is well situated, mostly on a hill, and partly at the foot of it, on the edge of the lake: this is a suburb, and open; the higher quarter is fortified. There are yet some small remains of its ancient splendor under the Romans, in an old tower, in one of the gates, in several inscriptions, &c. On the corner of a house, is a Medusa's head in relief, and a beautiful mosaic pavement has been found here. On the outside of the tower is the statue of a Roman Emperor; and in the wall of the church a statue of a Flamen under Augustus, much disfigured. The castle, where the Bailiff resides, overlooks the lake; and on

* Time from Geneva 2h. 30'. Inns, Croix blanche & Couronne. There is a view of the Pays de Vaud, in Rousseau's *Heloise*, part iv. letter 17. And a charming description of a vintage in Swisserland, part v. letter 7.

that side there is a charming walk, with a view of the lake in its full extent, and of the country to Geneva one way, and to Vevay the other, with the lofty and dusky rocks of Meillerie and St. Gingo. The Burgundians frequent the fairs of Nyon, and often the weekly markets.

Here it is commonly supposed that Cæsar built his wall from the lake to mount Jura, to keep the *Helvetii* from entering the country of the *Allobroges*. But it will be clear to any one who views the country, or even considers the map, that this could not be the place: his intrenchments were certainly along the Rhone, from Geneva to la Cluse, and on the south side of the river.

Half a league from Nyon is the village of *Prangin*. The castle of the Baron is a large modern building, handsomely furnished, on a rising ground, looking towards the lake.

Hence, entering the bailliage of Morges, after travelling two leagues, you come to ROLLE*, a pretty town, close to the lake where it is widest. It has many good buildings, and is delightfully situated, at the foot of a slope covered with vines, from which excellent wine is made. The Baron's castle is

* Inn, la Couronne, not good.

ancient,

ancient, large and spacious. Rolle has neither walls nor gates. The mineral waters near it are in some reputation, and occasion a resort of strangers.

From Rolle, in a league, you come to *Allaman*. The river of Aubonne falls into the lake near this village. Here ends the country called *la Côte*, so famous for an excellent, wholesome white wine. This territory is three leagues in extent, from the brook of Promentouse, half a league to the eastward of Nyon; and rises insensibly from the lake for a league in breadth towards mount Jura. Seen from the lake, this country forms a fine amphitheatre of vineyards and cultivated fields, thick set with towns, villages, castles and country houses.

Another league from Allaman, is *St. Prez*, and a good league farther is *MORGES**, capital of the Bailliage. This is a neat town, and one of the four principal ones of the *Pays de Vaud*. It is close to the lake, in a plain of fields and vineyards. The castle is at one end of the town, and the church at the other. The latter is a handsome building, dedicated

* Time three hours from Nyon. Inn, la Couronne, good.

by an inscription over the great door—*a la gloire de Dieu*, 1772. The pulpit is placed in a recess, where our communion table stands; and the area is filled with rows of seats, facing the pulpit. Here is a harbour big enough to contain a hundred barques, with a quay and market house. The country is charming, and full of vineyards down to the lake.

From Morges, at half a league, you pass through *Preverenges*. Then entering the bailiage of Lausanne, you go by *St. Sulpy*, and find it a league and half more to Lausanne.

The city of LAUSANNE* is the largest in the *Pays de Vaud*, and contains about 7000 inhabitants. It is built on three hills, half a league from the lake: the castle is in the highest part of it; below this is the college, founded in 1537. They have two pastors, two professors of divinity, a Hebrew professor and catechist, a professor of Greek and morality, of eloquence and belles lettres, of philosophy and mathematics, of law, and two honorary places; a chair of medicine was also erected for the celebrated Tissot. The great church is at the end of this quarter, which is

* Time from Morges 1h. 45'. Principal inn, Lion d'or, excellent.

called the city: near it is a terrace, from whence there is a view over the whole town. Of the nine churches which were once in Laufanne, there remains only this, and that of S. Francis, which serves for the use of the lower town; in this the Hotel de Ville is situated. —Ouchy, close upon the lake, is the port of Laufanne.

Their trade is chiefly in printed books, goldsmiths work and jewellery; but the whole is inconsiderable. Strangers are well lodged and received here: the air is pure and wholesome; water plentiful and excellent; the necessaries of life abundant, and good of their kinds. The environs are mountainous.

Laufanne, with the whole *Pays de Vaud*, is subject to Berne. It has, however, great privileges: the Bernois, by their Bailiff, exercising only the right of sovereignty, retaining the power of the military, of pardoning criminals, coining money, and part of the revenues of the Bishopric.

The mountainous tract from Laufanne to Vevay*, is called *la Vaux*. It is one continued vineyard, producing excellent wine. The road lies along the side of the mountains,

* Time 2h. 45'.

with the lake close on one side: it is rough, very uneven, narrow, and walled in on both sides. Through the openings there are fine views of the lake, and of the mountains towards the Valais.

This would be your road if you were now to visit the Valais; and the ride to Vevay is well worth the trouble, though you returned to Lausanne; for I now suppose you to shape your course northwards from hence to YVERDUN; which is a large, airy, well-built town, not far from the lake of Yverdun, or Neuchatel, in a small island, formed by the two branches of the river Thiele. This town is celebrated for its printing, has a manufactory of cottons and linnens, and is one of the passages for the merchandize which is brought from Piedmont to Germany. There are baths near Yverdun, which are much frequented in summer, and where you may lodge.

An excursion to the valley of the lake of Joux, by Orbe and the beautiful valley of Romain Motier, will be highly interesting to all lovers of picturesque scenery*.

The lake of Neuchatel is about twenty miles in length, and five in breadth. By means of the

* See Cox, letter xxv. p. 266.

The Lake of Neuchatel is about 20 miles in length, and 5 in breadth. By means of the little river Venoge, it might easily communicate with the lake of Geneva. It receives the superfluous waters of the lake of Morat, by means of the Broye; and discharges itself by the Tiele into the lake of Bienné; thus having a communication with the ocean, for the Tiele soon meets the Aar, which runs into the Rhine.

From Yverdun to Neuchatel, you skirt the west side of the lake, through Grandson, St. Aubin, Boudri, Colombier, &c. the road running along the side of Jura, through a country resembling the district of *la Vaux**.

NEUCHATEL † is very pleasantly situated, partly on the declivity of a mountain, and partly on a little plain between that and the lake. On one side it has a view of the lake in its whole extent; with the back ground filled up by the Alps, whose ever-frozen summits terminate the horizon. The mountain against which the town is built, defends it from the North, and is entirely covered with vines producing an excellent sort of wine, which is the

* See Coxe, letter xxvi. p. 273.

† Inn, la Couronne; good.

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chief thing they export: though lately trade has gained ground here, and manufactures of cotton have been established.

There is nothing remarkable in any of the public buildings. The Castle is large and commands the city. The Church near this is a gothic structure of the tenth century: it has an organ, and some tombs of the Counts and Countesses of Neuchatel and Vallengin. In the centre of the town is another church, of more modern structure, which also has an organ, and serves for the use of the German auditory.

To make amends for want of magnificence in public buildings, there is no town in Swisserland that can boast more handsome houses in its suburbs and environs: many of them are built in a good style, and in charming situations: that of M. Du Peyrou is the most stately.

The *Comté's* of *Neuchatel* and *Vallengin* are under the King of Prussia, but his authority is little more than nominal; he cannot even raise a single recruit in them. They make a part of the Helvetic body.

The road from Neuchatel to Bienne * is

Time six hours.

thro'

thro' *St. Blaise*, a *bourg* at the end of the lake; *Montmiral*, where there is a house of Moravian girls; *Pont-de-Thiele*, where you leave the principality of Neuchatel, and enter the canton of Berne; *Anet*, *Sifelen*, *Walpersweil*, three villages; and *NIDAU*, a pretty little town, only three quarters of a mile from Bienne, and belonging to Berne.

BIENNE is agreeably situated, near the lake of the same name, in a plain watered by the Suze, at the foot of a mountain, covered with vines. The inhabitants are about 6000 in number. Though belonging to the Bishop of Basle, the spiritual government is totally independent on him: and as to the temporal, the Bishop indeed has a Mayor, who presides in his name, but he must be one of the Little Council, and does homage to the city, as the city does reciprocally to him. The Bishop has an annual revenue of about 300 pounds sterling, but has no authority. The city makes its own laws, punishes delinquents, and enters into alliances. There are two Councils; the great one of forty, and the little one of twenty-four members, chosen out of the six companies. The Burgomaster is chief magistrate. They have been in alliance with Berne since 1352;

with Soleure since 1382; with Fribourg since 1407. The prevailing language is German, but French is much in use. The religion is Protestant, and there are two German churches, with one French. There is no building worth observation; nor any curiosities in the place. The country about however is romantic, and the lake is beautiful: it is about three leagues in length, and half an one in breadth. The charming island of S. Pierre, is a league in circuit, and contains about 200 acres, laid out in woods, walks, and a great variety of cultivation.*

The principal employment of the people of Bienne, is the dressing of skins for leather: they have also a small manufacture of printed linens.

Either from Neuchatel or this place, you may make a pleasant and interesting tour to Chaud-de-Fond and Locle. If from the first, you pass through *Vallengin*, a small open *bourg*, with a modern castle; and then cross the *val de Ruz*, in which there are above twenty villages. If from the second, you go a most romantic road by *Bojan* and *Frainvillier*, where

* See the description of it by Rousseau (who resided here in 1765) in his *Reveries cinquieme promenade*.

are mills for making iron wire, and at the latter a fine cataract of the river Suze. *Roche-nette*, where is a mill for making iron pots, among steep rocks; *la Hutte*, in a narrow valley, on the bank of the Suze. In three hours you arrive at *Sonfebo*, a village at the foot of the mountain, which you pass in going by *Bellelay*, and *Porentruy* to *Bale*. Near this is *Pierre-pertuis* (*petra pertusa*), a picturesque arch, cut through the rock of mount *Jura*, for a communication between the *Helvetii* and *Rauraci*. It is 50 feet in thickness, 25 feet in thickness, 25 feet wide, and 26 high. Over it is a mutilated latin inscription. Hence in an hour you come to *Courtelary*, a bourg of the valley of *St. Imier*; then to *St. Imier*, capital of the valley, and in two hours more to *Renans*, at the foot of the mountain separating the bishoprick of *Bale* from the principality of *Neuchatel*.

St. Imier is a beautiful vale of pastures, between two ridges of mountains covered with pines, having several pretty villages, and numbers of scattered dairy-houses all along it.

From *Renans* to *Chaud-de-Fond* is three hours: during two of which it is a continued steep ascent to *Corps-de-garde*, a retired place, in a wild situation, and consisting only of a few

dairy-houses, in the midst of fine pastures, ornamented with clusters of firs, placed by nature, as if they had been planted purposely for beauty. This is the frontier between the bishoprick of Bale, and the county of Vallengin; and the highest ground hereabouts. Hence you descend rapidly, and in an hour find yourself at the industrious and flourishing village of CHAUD-DE-FOND*, where a variety of mechanical works, and especially clock and watch-making, are carried to a great degree of perfection. It takes two hours to go from hence to Locle, where the same arts are pursued, with equal vigour. Here are curious subterraneous mills, turned by a torrent that falls down a perpendicular rock. There are three of these mills one under the other, half a league from the town; and there is one of the same kind at Chaud-de-Fond.

There are about 6000 inhabitants in these two villages and their districts: and it is a great singularity to see the mechanical arts flourishing amidst rocks and forests of pines. They have every workman among them,

* The time nine hours; bad accommodations at the Fleur-de-lys, in Renans; but the same sign in Chaud-de-Fond, very good.

wanted for all the numerous branches of watch-making, and make all their own tools. It is supposed 40,000 watches are exported annually; and all this in a country, which not many years since was one continued forest*.

The villages in all this country are much scattered. The houses whitened, squat and broad; with all we call out-houses contained under the same roof, which is covered with shingles. Chaud-de-Fond begins to take a little consistence and beauty, and even to aim at magnificence: some of their houses are large, and almost handsome: many of them are built of stone, and they begin to cover with tiles instead of shingles; to have large windows with sash panes, instead of the the old low casements with little round quarries.

Returning to Neuchatel or Bienne, or making the circuit from the first of these towns to the second, by Vallengin, Chaud-de-Fond, &c. instead of going the direct road, you will now make for Bale; either through the bishop-

* The first watch seen in these parts, was one brought from London, in 1679, which excited one of the inhabitants to make one; he accomplished his purpose unsifted. See more in Rousseau, vol. 12. *Lettres diverses*; Coxe, letter xxvi. &c.

rick, which is the shortest and most pleasant ; or by Soleure, which is the best road.

SOLEURE*, capital of the canton of the same name, situated on the river Aar, is more remarkable for its antiquity, than for any beauty in its buildings. Medals and inscriptions, have been found here ; but the city was entirely ruined by the Huns, Goths, and Vandals : there is now only an old tower remaining, in the middle of it. The modern city is on a hill, sloping gradually to the river ; and though the buildings in general are in an old style, yet there are some handsome houses, particularly that of the French Ambassadors, who have resided here above two centuries. The fortifications are regular, in the modern style, and well kept.

The collegiate church of St. Ursus, is in an elevated situation, and surrounded by a churchyard, forming a lofty terrace, to which you ascend from the street, by a handsome flight of steps. The Jesuits had a fine church here, with a magnificent front, built at the expence of Louis XIV. The convent of the Cordeliers is very large: The *Hotel de ville* is a good building,

* Inn, la Couronne, good,

building, and the arsenal is said to be well furnished.

The canton of Soleure is the eleventh in rank; it is eleven leagues long, and seven in its greatest breadth. The population is between forty and fifty thousand, of which five thousand in the capital.

The government is much the same as at Lucerne and Fribourg. The whole of the canton is Catholick, except the bailliage of Buchegg. Their alliance with Berne commenced in 1291; and in 1481 they were received into the general confederacy. In 1777 an alliance was concluded here between the King of France, and the thirteen cantons and their allies, for fifty years. Before this alliance none of the protestant states ever received any pensions from France; but now the cantons of Appenzel and Glaris, and the town of Bienne have agreed to accept subsidies.

The road from from Soleure to Bale * lies through the chain of Jura, along the rich vale of Balstal: about Clus, Falkenstein, &c. it is

* The time ten hours, viz. six to Warburg, and four to Bale; the inn at the first, the Cross-keys, at the last, the three Kings, a very good one.

very romantic. You come again to vineyards as you approach Bale, and the poles for the vines are eight feet high ; which is double the height you find them of in France, and the Pays de Vaud.

BALE or BASIL is the largest city of Switzerland; capable of containing 100,000 inhabitants, but it can scarcely number 11,000. It is built on both sides of the Rhine, which here becomes a large river. The two parts of the city are joined by a wooden bridge, 600 feet in length. The greatest part of the town is on the Swiss side; and this has nine or ten churches, and seven or eight convents, now put to other uses: the little town has four churches, and three convents.

The cathedral is an elegant gothic building, disfigured by being daubed all over with red. Within is a marble altar, and a handsome baptistery, or font; an organ, adorned with paintings by Holbein; and monuments of several illustrious persons, among others of Erasmus. The church of St. Peter is at one end of the city; behind it is a square, shaded with trees; on one side is the arsenal, and on the other, the house in which is M. Foesch's cabinet

of Medals. In the same street is the Botanic garden. Lower down, nearer the Rhine, is the convent of the Dominicans, now the French church. On a wall of the church-yard is the famous fresco of the Dance of Death, commonly ascribed to Holbein, but certainly painted before he was born, and now almost worn out. Holbein probably took the hint for his famous drawings from these old frescos.

Not far from the Cathedral is the Hotel de Ville, an ancient building. The great room in which the Council assembled in 1481, remains seemingly in its original state.

The university was founded by Pope Pius II. in 1459. The library contains many ancient manuscripts and first printed books, with a cabinet of natural history, some medals and gems, but it is most remarkable for the paintings and drawings by Holbein; many of them excellent, and in high preservation, as the Passion of our Saviour, in eight compartments, which was an altar-piece; Christ Dead: the Last Supper; Lais, and Venus and Cupid, companions; portrait of Holbein himself; of his wife and children; of his friend Amerbach, &c. Original drawings, by Holbein, Albert

bert Durer, Aldegraft, &c. in eight volumes. A considerable collection of ancient engravings, among which is a complete copy of the *Biblia Pauperum*; and another of modern prints.

There are several private cabinets of natural history at Bale; as Dr. D'Annonces's, M. Jerome Bernouilli's, and others. M. De Mechel, the engraver, a disciple of Wille's, has some capital pictures, and a great collection of the best prints, in which he deals largely.

The principal branches of trade are silks, ribbands, printed cottons, caps, gloves and paper; some of the merchants here are opulent, but the sumptuary laws are strict, and a simplicity of manners still reigns at Bale.

A strange custom prevails here, that the town clocks are always an hour too fast; so that when it is really noon, it is one o'clock at Bale, and so on. Several reasons are assigned for this singularity*, which the magistrate cannot yet persuade the common people to alter.

The population of this canton is estimated at 40,000. It is properly out of the circuit of ancient *Helvetia*, and was not received into the Helvetic body, 'til 1501. The reformation

* See Cox, p. 429, &c.

was embraced in 1529, by the persuasion of Oecolampadius.

The sovereignty resides in the Great Council of 216, with the two Burgomasters and two Tribunes. This council is made up of 12 persons out of each of the 15 tribes, and the three companies of the little city. These joined to the four chiefs and the Little Council of 60, form another council of 280. The meanest citizen is capable of being a member of these councils. The Prince of Baden Dourlach has a palace here, but no authority.

From Bale you will go to Schaffhausen, between the Black Forest and the Rhine. Since the country is not fine, and the inns are bad, it may be adviseable to take the post.

SCHAFFHAUSEN*, is situated on the northern bank of the Rhine. It is slightly fortified, and has a kind of citadel, but no garrison, though a frontier town. The buildings are old fashioned and indifferent: most of them have the name of the inhabitant, the date of the building, and some device over the door, and some have the front painted all over.

* Inn, la Couronne, very good.

Here and at Bale, they are fond of salient windows and mirrors to enable them to look up and down the streets : these are not very narrow, but they are ill-paved, with middle and cross kennels. There are two considerable churches, the Munster, and St. John's ; in the latter is a library ; and there is a second in the town for the use of the citizens. At the Reformation, a school or academy was established, where the sacred languages, and sciences proper for ecclesiasticks are taught.

The bridge over the Rhine, built in 1754, by Grubenmann, a common carpenter, is a very curious work, of that kind which is called *Hængewerk* by the Germans. It is entirely of timber, 365 English feet in length, and yet resting wholly on the two ends. It is covered over and was built in three years.

Dr. Amman's cabinet of natural history is very extensive, and well arranged ; his brother has some good pictures.

Here are some manufactures of linen, cotton, and silk : but the principal article of exportation is wine, for which they procure corn in exchange from Suabia. The sumptuary laws are very strict, and all games of chance are prohibited.

In order to view the famous cascade of the Rhine, you must either go to Lauffen, which is a league from Schaffhausen; or to Neuhausen, which is only half a league, and where the fall is seen to better advantage; but at the latter you must cross the river, to which some persons have an objection. Hence you have first a back view of the Cascade, and when you have walked down the hill, it plays upon you in all forms as you go to the ferry, from a profile to a front view; as you cross the river, you enjoy it in full front all the way, and distinguish the three sheets of water, rolling down in all their majesty; you see also that towards the opposite side, part of it is dashed back and broken into spray: the whole is white with foam, except here and there some green tints, especially when the sun shines upon it. Having crossed the river, you mount the hill to a little platform, built on purpose to bring you close to the cascade; and there you see it foaming with the greatest fury, whilst you are safe even from the spray, unless the wind happen to set towards you. If the view of this object be truly picturesque from the other side, from hence it is grand and majestic. By ascending a little higher to the castle of Lauffen, you have

Tour through Swisserland.

have a fourth view, wherein you look down upon the falling river, and also trace its progress. In order to see the rainbow formed by the spray, you must be on the spot before nine o'clock in the morning. Accounts vary much as to the height of the cataract; but this is chiefly owing to the different seasons at which travellers have viewed it. When I saw it in June, I judged the fall to be 40 feet, and was informed that it was then lower than usual in that month. After the melting of great snows, it is said to be 80 feet; and sometimes in winter, not more than 20. After all it is not the height of the fall, but the immensity of the body of water, broken in a most picturesque manner by the rocks, that constitutes the beauty of the cascade of *Lauffen*.

The canton of Schaffhausen is the twelfth in rank, and the least of them all, being only five leagues in length, and three in breadth. The number of Inhabitants about 30,000. It is the barrier of Swisserland against Germany, and is wholly on the German side of the Rhine. The sovereignty resides in the Great Council, which includes the Little Council or Senate of Twenty-four, with the reigning burgomaster presiding; the whole number is 185; and they

they are all chosen from the 12 tribes, into which the citizens, who are about 1600, are divided. The executive power is in the Senate. Schaffhausen has been united with the Cantons since 1454, and was formally received into the confederacy in 1501.

From Schaffhausen you go to Constance by *Stein* *, pleasantly situated at the head of the inferior lake of Constance, or *Zeller Zee*. Not far from hence, is the stone quarry of *Oenighen*, wherein is abundance of fossil fish, insects and leaves, in good preservation. The country is fine, in some places, between Schaffhausen and Constance, but the road is narrow and indifferent †. You may go by water, either from Schaffhausen or Stein, but the first will be tedious.

At CONSTANCE there is nothing worth seeing; except perhaps the Town-house, and the room where the council was held in the 15th century; it now serves for the arsenal: the chairs in which the Pope and Emperor sat, are still shewn there. The buildings are old and bad; the city full of monks, with grass

* *La Cigne*, a good inn.

† The time to Stein 3 hours, to Constance 4.—To go the whole way by water will take at least 12 hours.

growing

growing in the streets: the inhabitants are scarcely 3000, of which between six and seven hundred are burgesſes; at the time of the Council there were more than 36,000.

The lake is 15 or 16 leagues long, and 5 or 6 broad in the wideſt part; the banks of it are gently riſing hills: it is wider than that of Geneva, but has not ſo much pictureſque beauty.

Hence you will either make a tour to St. Gall, and the cantons of Appenzell and Glaris*; or returning to Schaffhaufen, go by Eglisau; or elſe directly by Winterthur to Zurich. In the latter road you paſs Frauenfeld, the capital of Turgovia, where the Diet of the Swiſs is held. In 1771 the greater part of it was burnt, but it has been almoſt wholly rebuilt. Winterthur is the firſt town in the canton of Zurich; it has a large and good library, with a curious cabinet of medals. The environs are fertile and produce good wine; and commerce is flouriſhing.

* See Coxe, letters IV. to VII.—The inhabitants of S. Gall are uncommonly induſtrious, and have an extenſive commerce in their manufactures of linnen, muſlin and embroidery. The arts and ſciences are cultivated, and literature is in great eſteem. Their library is ample, and well arranged.

ZURIC

ZURIC * is one of the most considerable cities in Swisserland, for its antiquity, credit and rank. It is pleasantly situated, at the extremity of a large and beautiful lake; where the river Limmat issues from it, dividing the city into two unequal parts, which are connected by two wooden bridges. The streets are narrow, and the buildings indifferent. There are five churches. 1. The Gross-Munster, a plain edifice with two large towers, on one of which is an equestrian statue of Rupert duke of Suabia; on the other, of Charlemagne: here was a dean and canons, which were not dispossessed at the Reformation: here also is the College, and the public Schools, where the humanities, the learned languages, philosophy and theology are taught. 2. The Frawen-Munster, belonged to a royal abbey of ladies, founded in 853 by Louis, son of Louis le Debonnaire: at the Reformation, the Abbess surrendered the estates to the magistrates, who converted it into a college for the maintenance of poor scholars. 3. St. Peter's; the steeple of which having been burnt down by lightning, was lately rebuilt. Near this is a square called

* L' épée, a most excellent inn.

Lindenboff, from its being planted with lime trees: it is on an eminence, by the river, and overlooks all the city, with the neighbouring country. The citadel stood formerly here, but it was rased in the thirteenth century, by permission of Frederic II. 4. The church of the Dominicans, or of the Holy Ghost. 5. The church of *Octenbach*. There is a church also belonging to the hospital; and the *Wasserkirch* is converted into a library, which has a considerable collection of manuscripts, and many of the first printed books---several volumes of letters to and from the Reformers, among which are some from Lady Jane Gray, to Bullinger, in Latin, writ at fourteen and fifteen years of age---the original manuscript of Quintilian, which belonged to the abbey of St. Gall, &c.

The Hotel de Ville stands on the bank of the river; it is a good building of hewn stone, with a portal of black marble, a great deal of carving both within and without, and ornamented in front with heroes of ancient republics and of Swisserland. In the vestibule are two large pictures representing all the fish of the neighbouring river and lake; and there are several other pictures in the apartments.

The

The handsomest edifice in Zurich is the Orphan-house; it is also in one of the most pleasant situations.

The arsenal consists of several buildings, better furnished with all the implements of war than any in Swisserland, except that of Berne. Here are arms for 30,000 men; some of the huge swords and weighty armour of the ancient Swiss; the cross-bow of William Tell, with which they pretend he shot an apple from his son's head in 1307, &c.

There is a public granary close to the river, always amply furnished. In the old granary, near the church of the Dominicans is some corn of the year 1540, said to be so well preserved, that tolerable bread may still be made of it.

The society of Naturalists at Zurich established in 1748, has a library, a museum, an astronomical and physical apparatus, &c. Mr. John Gefner has a noble library, a fine *hortus siccus*, and a very considerable cabinet of fossils.

M. Schultess, M. Escher, M. Lavater and others, have also collections of natural history: and Scheuchzer's cabinet is in the possession of his nephew. Zurich abounds in persons of learning

learning and merit. M. Solomon Gefner, the poet and painter, and M. Lavater, the physiognomist, are very generally known; Dr. Hirzel, author of *Socrate Rustique*; Dr. Schinz, nephew to the venerable and benevolent John Gefner, and many others, deserve no less to be known.

The inhabitants of Zurich yet preserve much of the candour and simplicity of the ancient Swiss, with great attention to strangers. They have much virtue and piety, without pride or ostentation. They are religious observers of their word, and ready to do kind offices; activity and industry are very visible among them; such as are not men of letters, apply themselves to business. Their principal manufactures are silks, cottons and crape, which is esteemed particularly excellent; they have silk-mills; and at some distance from the city on the lake, a manufacture of porcelaine. Their chief traffic is with France, Italy, Holland, and Russia.

The Lake of Zurich is about ten leagues in length; but in no part exceeds a league in breadth: its figure is nearly that of a bow, and it is supplied by the river Lint, which enters it below Grinaw, and goes out again at Zurich,
under

under the name of Lindmatt or Limmatt. At Rapperschwyi, where the lake is contracted and shallow; a bridge is thrown across it, 1850 Paces in length: it is of wood, without rails, and the boards are not fastened. On the west side of the lake is mount Albis which is pretty high; and on the east a chain of mountains, which are lower and better cultivated: the banks are in general very gay, being one continued chain of vineyards, meadows, gardens little woods. country houses and villages.

The Sovereignty of Zurich is vested in the Council of Two Hundred, consisting of 212 members, elected from the thirteen tribes, and comprising the senate or Little Council. The latter is composed of 24 tribunes, taken equally from the 12 tribes of commons, and four counsellors, chosen by the tribe of nobles: to these there are added 20 counsellors, elected by the sovereign council, making in all, with the two burgomasters, fifty members. The senate has the whole executive power.

Zurich was the first city of Swisserland that embraced the reformation. It was begun by Zuinglius in 1517, and formally established in 1524, with great temper.

The

The relation of Zurich to the Helvetic body, is by alliance with Schwitz, and Uri, in 1251, with Schaffhausen, in 1344, and with Berne, in 1385, renewed in 1423. But in 1351 Zurich entered into a perpetual alliance with the four cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Schwitz and Unterwald, and obtained the pre-eminence, as first canton, which it still maintains, by the opinion which the others have of its integrity, uprightness and independency.

The canton of Zurich is forty miles in length and thirty in breadth, where it is the widest. It abounds in corn, wine and excellent pastures; and is exceeding populous. The number of inhabitants is supposed to be about 150,000, of which 12,000 are in the capital. They have a regiment, and some companies in the service of France, a regiment in that of Holland, and some companies in the service of the King of Sardinia*.

The

* From Zurich, it would be an interesting excursion, by the Lake to Utznach, by the Lake of Wallestat to Wallestat, and so to Coire the capital of the Grisons, and even to the Valteline. But such excursions are beyond my limits, and are too long and difficult for the generality. They who ride on horseback, may go across the country from Zurich to Lucerne, by Zug; which is the only walled town among the les-

ser

The carriage road from Zurich to Lucerne lies through BADEN*, the *Aquæ Helvetica* of the Romans ; situated on the river Limmatt, in a narrow plain, between two hills. Its baths were famous under Augustus, or very soon after ; and abundance of antiquities have been found here.

The hot baths are at a little distance from the town, below it, and on the banks of the Limmatt. The great baths are on the left bank ; there are sixty of them, large and commodious, in the hotels and lodging-houses ; and in the middle of the town are public open baths, for the use of the poor : they are all supplied by seven springs.

The county of Baden is about seven leagues in length, and three in breadth ; is watered by three navigable rivers ; and is subject to Berne, Zurich, and Glaris, who send a bailiff in turn. The religion is mixed, but the catholic predominates.

LUCERNE†, is situated at the northern extremity of the cantons. It is delightfully situated on a beautiful lake, in a fertile valley. The lake is three leagues long, and one broad. You embark on the lake of Lucerne at Kufnacht.

* Time four hours. Inn la Balance.

† Time from Baden to Merischwande, four hours, 45 minutes. Inn, Lion d'or ; to Lucerne, 5. 15 ; inn, Aigle d'or, excellent.

C

tremity

tremity of a most beautiful lake, where the river Reufs issues from it. The buildings are ancient, and the streets narrow; nor is Lucerne populous in proportion to its extent, the inhabitants being only between three and four thousand. Since this is the great passage to Italy by mount St. Gothard; and the merchandize which passes the Alps on mules, and is to be transported by the rivers Reufs, Aar and Rhine, is all deposited here; it might have a flourishing trade if arts and manufactures were attended to. The Reufs separates the town into two unequal parts, which are connected by three bridges; one wide, for carriages; and two narrow covered ones for foot passengers: besides these there is a fourth, over an arm of the lake, to pass to the cathedral. Three of these bridges have old bad paintings, of the dance of death, and the history of the Bible and of Switzerland. They make a commodious, dry walk for the inhabitants.

Of religious edifices, the principal are, the cathedral, or collegiate church of St. Leger; the convent of Cordeliers; the college of the Jesuits; the convent of Capuchins; and two

convents of Nuns. Of the secular buildings, the hotel de Ville is the principal. The arsenal is well furnished. The water tower is remarkable only for its position and antiquity: it is said to have been a pharos or lighthouse.

Dr. Lang's cabinet consists chiefly of petrifications, and extraneous fossils; especially those of Mount Pilat, near Lucerne. But what attracts most the notice of strangers is, a plan in relief of part of the cantons of Lucerne, Zug, and Berne, and the whole of Schweitz, Uri, and Underwald, executed by General Pfiffer, on a large scale. He has completed about sixty square leagues; the plan is twelve feet long, and nine and a half broad: every mountain is accurately measured; and every object distinctly placed.

The Lake of Lucerne exhibits greater variety, and more picturesque scenery than any other of the Swiss lakes. It is seven leagues long, in a right line, and three wide about Küssnacht; but the shape is very irregular. The whole south side is bordered by high mountains; but the north exhibits hills of no great height. The narrow gulph that extends towards the west, is bordered on the N. and N. W. by Mount Pilat, which is a single

mountain, rising boldly more than 6000 feet above the lake; and on the S. by mount Burgenberg. Stantz-Stadt, belonging to the canton of Underwald, is on this side; and hereabouts the lake is deepest. Kuffnacht is on the point of the other gulph, which extends towards the east, and is wider than the former. All the country to the west of these gulphs, and part of it to the north of the latter, belongs to the canton of Lucerne; but that which is to the S. and N. E. is dependant on the canton of Zug. All the mountains on the left shore of the lake, belong to the canton of Underwald; those on the right, partly to the canton of Uri, partly to that of Schweitz, partly to the little republic of Gersaw, but principally to the canton of Lucerne.

The town of Lucerne forms a fine object at one extremity. Mount Pilat, and the Rugi, are noble mountains: the first well known to naturalists for the variety of its plants and fossils; the second peculiarly fitted to give a view over great part of Switzerland. At the foot of this is the smallest republic, and perhaps the most perfect democracy in Europe, that of Gersaw. The inhabitants are about a thousand;

land ; it is absolutely independent ; and under the protection of the four cantons. The scenery of that part which is called the lake of Uri, is particularly sublime : it is narrow and edged on both sides with the most wild and romantic rocks, with woods of beech and pine down to the very water's edge.

But this fine lake is particularly interesting, for having been the theatre whereon the independency of Switzerland was originally planned. Here is the chapel of William Tell, on a rock jutting out into the lake under a hanging wood : and the village of Brunnen, where the treaty of 1315 was signed between Uri, Schwitz and Unterwalden*. Schwitz, the capital of the canton, is but two miles from it.

The canton of Lucerne holds the third place among the thirteen ; and is the head of the catholic cantons. Though less than Zurich, and consequently much less than Berne ; it is, however, far more extensive than any of the

* It was planned by Werner de Staffach, of Schwitz, Walter Furst of Uri, and Arnold de Melchtall, of Unterwalden ; and the revolution took place Jan. 13, 1308. The government of these three cantons is entirely democratical ; and they contain near 80,000 inhabitants.

rest, being 15 or 16 leagues long, and eight broad. The population is estimated at 100,000. Even the mountainous part is not barren, but abundant in wood and pasture, furnishing cattle, hides, cheese, and butter, for exportation. All the north part is fertile in grain, fruit, and hay; supplying sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants: but as the mountaineers of the little cantons come to their market for corn, the people of Lucerne purchase this commodity from other parts of Swisserland, but especially from Alface and Suabia. Their manufactures are very inconsiderable; consisting only in a little silk and cotton thread. The difference between Zurich and Lucerne is very striking; there every body is employed in useful arts and manufactures; here all is gay, and pleasure seems the only pursuit.

The government is oligarchical. The councils are chosen from among five hundred citizens only. The great Council of 64 members, is the nominal sovereign; but in fact the power resides in the Senate, or Little Council of 36, having for their chiefs the two Avoyers.

The whole canton professes the Roman Catholic religion. The pope's nuncio, with the
title

title of Legate *a latere*, usually resides at Lucerne.

They threw off the Austrian yoke in 1352, and by entering into a perpetual alliance with the three ancient cantons, they gave such weight to the confederacy, as to enable it, in 1386, to resist all the efforts of the enemy, at the bloody battle of Sempach.

Many delightful excursions may be made from Lucerne: the tour of the lake is highly interesting; one little excursion is to Stantz-Stadt, Stantz and Sarnen, in the canton of Unterwald; another is to the lake of Zug, and the town of the same name; and a very considerable excursion may be made, by Altorff, capital of the canton of Uri, to mount S. Gothard; which may be extended to mount Furca, the Grimsel, &c.

In going from Lucerne to Berne, having travelled two leagues, you come to the lake of *Sempach*, about two leagues in length, and half an one in breadth. It has two towns on its banks, Sempach and Sursee. Leaving the former on the right, and coasting the west side of the lake, you arrive at *Sursee*. Hence you come to *Zoffinguen*, remarkable for its anti-

quity and pleasant situation. The Bernois took it in 1415, and gave it very considerable privileges. Here is a public library, and the church has a handsome tower. They have manufactures of ribbands, printed linens, and cottons. Near Zoffinguen is a great forest, in which are the finest and loftiest pines in Swisserland, fit for masts. To the right appears Arbourg, a strong fortress, belonging to Berne. Hence you go by Rotrisch, Hertzogenbuchsee, and Kilchberg. Between this latter place and Berne, at Hindelbank is a beautiful monument executed by Nahl*.

BERNE is a large and handsome city, on a long peninsula formed by the river Aar, almost in the middle of the canton. It is well built of good freestone upon terraces; the high street is broad, and a stream of clear water runs through it.

Some of the public buildings are handsome; others are even elegant. The cathedral is a

		h.	m.	
* From Lucerne to Sursee,		3.	40	Le Soleil
To Zoffinguen	———	3.	0	Le Boeuf
To Rotrisch	———	1.	0	Le Cheval
To Hertzogenbuchsee	———	3.	0	Le Soleil
To Kilchberg	—	2.	0	Le Soleil
To Berne	———	3.	0	Le Faucon, good good

good gothic structure, with a lofty tower: it is placed on a bold terrace, which is a public walk; several rows of horse-chestnut trees shade it from the sun, and it looks upon a diversified and richly cultivated country. By the side of the cathedral is the *Stift*, or Dean's house, a handsome building, where the consistory is held. A few paces above this is the college, where the youth destined for the ministry are instructed; in this college is the library, which is rather chosen than voluminous; it has near 1200 manuscripts, of which M. Sinner has published a judicious catalogue; portraits of celebrated persons; and a small museum.

The great hospital for poor citizens, and the infirmary, are large, handsome edifices. The town-house is ancient; by the side of it is the Mint, the Chancellery, and the Treasury. The arsenal is well furnished: in two long rooms are about 400 brass cannon, from four to sixteen pounders, newly cast; and small arms for 60,000 men; abundance of ancient armour, and weapons used before the invention of fire-arms. The public granary is always amply provided: under it is the corn-market; and by the side of it a platform planted with lime-trees,

trees, making a handsome walk. Near this is the new manege. The city and environs are ornamented daily with new buildings and walks.

The trade of Berne is very trifling: what little business and manufacture there is here, is carried on by such only as have no hopes of attaining to public offices: these and the army are the resources of all the young gentlemen of family. There is an œconomical Society at Berne, which pursues its objects with zeal, but without any support from government.

M. Sprungli has a cabinet, a little way out of town, consisting of a good collection of fossils, and the far greater part of the birds of Swisserland, among which is the Lammergeyer, or great vulture of the Alps, supposed to be the same with the Condor of America. The species of Swiss birds are about 250, and M. Sprungli possesses 230 of them. M. Wytttenbach, pastor of the great hospital, has also a growing cabinet, and the possessor is full of information.

The canton of Berne holds the second rank. In power and extent it is the first, for it comprehends about a third of Swisserland; and its population is a fourth of the whole. It is sixty leagues

leagues in length; and the inhabitants are 350,000, besides 11,000 in the capital.

The city of Berne is sovereign of the whole canton; and the sovereignty resides entirely in the Great Council, composed of 200 counsellors, and 99 assessors. The Senate or Little Council, composed of 27 members, has the executive power. There are six noble families in Berne, which have precedence, viz. Erlach, Diebach, Mullenen. Wattenwyl, Bonstetten, and Lutternau.

The reformation was introduced in 1528 by Berctold Haller and Francis Kolbius; at Lausanne by Farell. The whole canton is reformed, except some catholics in the Frickthall.

Berne was allied with the three first cantons in 1352; with Zurich, in 1423; and at length entered into the perpetual alliance of the Swiss, and obtained the second place among the cantons in 1481.

From Berne you will make an excursion to the Glaciers of Grindelwald. Your first stage is to *Thun*,* a little town, pleasantly situated, at the head of a lake, which bears the

* The Bear, a tolerable good inn.

same name. It came into the possession of Berne in 1384. From the castle and churchyard you see an extensive plain, and the lake bounded by several mountains, crowned by the Alps.

You will cross the lake in a convenient covered boat, to *Nieuhaus* or *Maison Neuve*, in four hours. This lake is about five leagues in length, and at least one in breadth; the banks afford a rich variety of prospect; and it supplies Berne with the following fish; eel, salmon-trout, grayling, called here *eschling*,* barble, carp, chub, dace, gudgeon, not esteemed in Swisserland, *vilain*†, bream, burbot or eel-pout, perch, pike, loche or groundling‡, and gwiniad, albock, balch, or brientzling§. If you have any horses, they may be sent over the lake in another boat.

It is about a league from Nieuhaus, by Interlachen, to the lake of Brientz; on which you will again embark, in a boat smaller and less commodious than the other, and arrive at

* *Salmo Thymallus* of Linnæus.

† *Cyprinus Nasus*.

‡ *Cobitis Barbatula*.

§ *Salmo Lavaretus*.

Brientz in three hours. This lake is three leagues in length, and one in breadth; abounding so much in the gwiniad, that it is called in this country *brientzling*. The river Aar traverses this lake, and connects it with that of Thun. The views here are very picturesque; both sides are bordered by rude mountains, abounding however in excellent pastures.

BRIENTZ is only a village, situated close at the end of the lake. Here if you have not horses, you may hire a waggon, to convey you and your baggage to Meyringen. The road is tolerably good; and there are many fine romantic views, rendered chearful by continual cascades: it is a narrow valley of pastures, with the Aar running through it.

MEYRINGEN* a large neat village, is the capital of the *Haslithal*, and is situated near the river Aar, in a romantic valley, surrounded by luxuriant meadows. The Haslithal forms the eastern extremity of the Canton of Berne; having Underwald to the north, Uri to the east, and the high Valais to the south. It submitted to Berne in 1333, but enjoys great privileges.

* Inn, l'homme sauvage: indifferent. Our company being numerous, the Minister of the parish accommodated us with one very good bed.

The

The valley is 11 leagues in length, and is inclosed by lofty mountains, which abound in minerals and crystals: the heat is so concentrated by these, that they reap their harvest in ten or twelve weeks from the time of sowing. The Aar makes frequent and great ravages in this valley; and the torrents close to Meyringen, which form most beautiful cascades, find the inhabitants work enough, in raising walls to confine them. The population is about 20000; the men are tall, robust and well made: they live chiefly on milk diet, and work their own wool for clothing: they export cheese and cattle; their great import is salt: they cultivate a little wheat, barley, hemp and fruit. We ate cheese at Meyringen which was 130 years old.

In order to get from hence to Grindelwald, you must pass MOUNT SCHEIDEGG. There is no road for any sort of carriage; and it is bad enough in some places even for horses. Having crossed the Aar, over a covered wooden bridge, you will find a very steep and stony ascent to the torrent of *Reichenbach*, which here forms a noble cascade: from hence you may see almost the whole vale of Hasli at one view. Beyond this, the country becomes very wild and romantic:

mantic: the rocks covered only with pines; cascades tumbling from these rocks; torrents roaring along the valleys: when on a sudden a most fertile vale presents itself, studded with the wooden huts, where the peasants come to make their cheese. These verdant vales are small; and you soon plunge again into all the horrors of the mountain. When you are fatigued, you will stop at one of these huts, and regale yourself with whey, curds, milk, or cream, all most excellent in their kinds; you will also probably meet with cheese, but if you desire the luxury of bread, you must take it with you; that being rarely seen on this mountain. When you have ascended full four hours, you will begin to surmount the region of trees, finishing in shrubs. The very upper part however of Scheidegg is by no means barren, but covered with most excellent pasture. On the left you will now see Glaciers, in the distance, and may probably hear the fall of the *Avalanches*, like distant thunder. When you have fatiated the eye with the splendour of these objects, you will be glad to let it repose on the green vale of GRINDELWALD, which presents itself as soon as you are arrived at the top of the mountain,
studded

studded with its 800 wooden houses, all seeming to proclaim by their equal dimensions the equality which reigns in these happy vales: the extensive verdure is interrupted only by these scattered habitations, and here and there by little patches of corn, hemp and flax. The descent, though not so rude as the ascent, is almost too steep to ride down with comfort; especially as the whole mountain on this side is composed of slate, which easily shivers, and is very slippery. It will take three hours and an half nearly to ride or walk from the summit of the mountain to the inn*.

The valley of Grindelwald is bounded to the south by three lofty mountains; Eiger to the right, Mettenberg in the middle, and Wetterhorn to the left. Between the two first descents the inferior or little Glacier; between the second and third the superior Glacier: one of them a league, the other half a league from the inn: the more distant one is usually visited by strangers, as being the most beautiful. These Glaciers have gradually hollowed a bed for

* We found the inn so tolerable, as to make it unnecessary for us to accept the kind offer of the minister of the parish, to accommodate us with beds. The whole time from Meyringen to the inn at Grindelwald, is nine hours and an half.

themselves

themselves along the vallies, and already descend lower than the inhabited soil. In order to get upon the ice, you must scale the heap of stones and rocks, which the Glacier has pushed before it. You may do this without much trouble; advance a little upon the ice; see the general form of the Glacier, with the pyramids above, the beautiful sapphirine and green tints of the ice in the clefts, and the torrents springing from beneath it. But if you would mount the Glacier, to take a view of what they call the Icy Sea, you must employ five or six hours, undergo much fatigue, and run some hazard. These Glaciers have been so often described*, and ideas so inadequate are conveyed of such objects by description, that I shall only caution you not to raise your expectations too high, lest, like Mr. Coxe† and myself, you should feel disappointed when you come to view them.

If you have no horses with you, whilst you are viewing the Glacier, dispatch a messenger to Unterseen, for a little waggon, drawn by one stout horse, which will convey you pleasantly to

* See M. De Luc's 10th letter, &c. &c.

† See letter xvi.

Lauterbrunn in three hours. You traverse the valley of Grindelwald in its whole length: it is divided into seven communities, called Alps, each of which has its separate commons. They have all a right to keep as many head of cattle as they can maintain during the winter: first they feed the pastures of the valley; and as the year advances the cattle go gradually higher up the mountains: as the year declines, they descend in the same manner; and in the mean time, the inhabitants lay in winter provisions for them from their home pastures. The number of cows, sheep and goats is estimated at 4589, of these about 2000 are large cattle. This valley is a perfect image of the patriarchal times; when the head of a family established his children round him; and they their children in succession.

Pursuing the torrent formed by the two Glaciers of Grindelwald, till they join the torrent that comes down the valley of Lauterbrunn, you turn to the left, into the latter valley. Huge masses of rock, with trees growing in the most grotesque manner out of them, and thrown about irregularly, characterize the entrance into this picturesque and romantic valley; which is in general very narrow, in many parts having
barely

barely room for a little road between the torrent and the mountain. Frequently vast rocks, that have fallen from the impending mountains, almost stop the course of the torrent, and make it rage with redoubled fury. The stupendous *Hunnenflue*, resembling a gigantic bastion, seems to forbid your proceeding any farther; rocks despoiled of all their verdure, threaten a sudden fall: frequent cascades tumble down the precipices. The road winds through dusky pines, where a stern silence is interrupted only by the Lutschinen beating furiously against rocks, that strive in vain to detain him prisoner. Sometimes the mountains seem to close, as if to forbid farther passage: but at length the valley opens, and the little scattered village of Lauterbrunn shows its smiling face; the simple wooden mansions, situated in green pastures, giving at once repose to the eye, and tranquillity to the mind. The Church, and the hospitable residence of the Minister* soon come in sight, and a little beyond, Staubbach is seen pouring down its waters from the top of the mountain.

* There being no inn at Lauterbrunn, the Minister receives strangers, lodges and entertains them well, and accepts a gratuity.

When

When the sun appears over the mountains, and darts his rays upon the water-fall, is the proper time to view it. Staubbach is then finely illuminated, and the Iris appears at the bottom in full splendour. The water falls 930 feet perpendicular, and being broken into spray, is dispersed by the wind which the cascade itself continually creates. After great rains, the force of the water is considerable enough to carry the fall quite clear of the rock; but at other times, though the mountain is almost perpendicular, the water breaks against some projecting parts, and is thereby the more dispersed.

Lauterbrunn might be named the valley of cascades. Staubbach is by no means the only one: you may count ten from one point near the parsonage house; and there is double that number at least, in a very small space: deeper in the valley are many more, among which are two that fall from a greater height than even the Staubbach; but since they do not descend at one leap, they are not so remarkable. The view from the village is closed by mount Jungfrau; whose summits, called Jungfrauhorn, are distinctly seen; together with the isolated rock

at the extremity, called the Monk, round which the daring hunters will sometimes creep, with the assistance of their hooked knives, in pursuit of the Chamois, which abounds in these parts. Still more distant appear the Glaciers that descend from the steep rocks of Grosshorn and Breithorn. It is a fatiguing march of at least three hours to these glaciers.

Unless you propose to cross the Gemmi to the baths of Leuk, in the Valais, and so by Sion the capital,* to the glaciers of Chamouni, you will now return to Berne. When you emerge from the valley of Lauterbrunn, you turn to the left, going by Wilderswyl, and the ruined castle of Unspunnen. When you leave the mountains, you cross a large plain of fertile pasture, well watered, perfectly flat, and most of it planted with fruit trees, to Unterseen, the residence of a Bailiff, and remarkable for a fishery of the Albock or Brientzling. From hence you go to Nieuhaus, and embark on the Lake of Thun. Your little waggon will bring you hither easily from Lauterbrunn in three hours. You cross the lake, and return, by the way you came, to Berne.

* Well described by Coxé, letter xviii.

From Berne you will now go to Vevay, by Morat and Avenche. MORAT † is famous for three sieges which it sustained, in 1030 against the Emperor Conrad; in 1292 against Rodolph; and in 1476 against Charles the Hardy, the last Duke of Burgundy. The latter was followed by the bloody battle at the gates of Morat, wherein the Burgundians were totally routed, and the Duke escaped the carnage, by swimming and wading across the lake in the dark. In the Maison de Ville is a portrait of the Duke, said to have been found in his tent. It is a half length, the head shaved almost like a monk, and his air very fierce.

This town consists of the *Rive*, which is by the lake, and is rather a suburb; and the upper town situated on a little height. In this there are three parallel streets; the two outer ones are narrow, and poorly built; the main street wide, with spacious arcades on both sides: there is only a single wall round it, flanked with towers, and a gallery with loopholes running all along it. The old castle is now the residence of the bailiff, who is sent by Berne and Fribourg alternately.

† The inns. Lion rouge, l'Aigle. Time from Berne, four hours 45 minutes.

The whole bailliage is of the reformed religion. It was established here in 1530 by a majority of voices, in presence of the deputies from Berne and Fribourg. Both German and French are spoken at Morat. Notwithstanding its advantageous situation for trade, it is in a languid and deserted state. The dress of the peasants hereabouts is singular. When the waters are out, the lake of Morat makes, in a manner, one with those of Neuchatel and Bienne.

Just without the town is a little chapel, in which are preserved the bones of the Burgundians, who fell in the siege and battle of 1476. It is close to the lake, by the road side; and has two inscriptions in latin, with six German verses.

An hour and quarter will bring you to *Avenche**, in which there are some antiquities; the principal of these are a mosaic pavement; the remains of an amphitheatre, in an orchard behind the bailiff's castle; and below the town, a lofty column of marble, which seems to have belonged to the portal of some magnificent edifice. *Aventicum* was a flourishing Roman co-

* Inns, Paon and Maison de Ville.

lony; and Tacitus informs us that it was then the capital of Switzerland.

Hence you will go to Vevay, either through Payerne and Moudon, or by Fribourg*.

Payerne,† is situated on the river Broye. In 1536 it submitted to the canton of Berne, with the whole Pays de Vaud, and at the same time embraced the reformation. It is governed by its own laws; only the Avoyer or supreme magistrate, is confirmed by the Council of Berne.

The road to MOUDON ‡ is chiefly along a narrow valley, between two ridges of hills. This town is at the issue of it, and is built partly on the side of a hill, partly on the plain; the river Broye crossing it, and the two parts being connected by a stone bridge. Under the house of Savoy, Moudon was much more considerable than it is at present; being then the capital of the Pays de Vaud, and the residence of the bailiff, who now inhabits the castle of Lucens, which was a palace of the bishops of

* It will take about eight hours by the first, and eleven by the second route.

† Maison de Ville, a good inn, L'Ours. Time from Avenche, one hour, 30 minutes.

‡ Inn, Maison de Ville. Time three hours.

Lausanne,

Lausanne. It is still reckoned one of the four chief towns of the Pays de Vaud, and the inhabitants are about 3000. Some antiquities, inscriptions and Roman medals have been found here; the antiquities are deposited in the public library at Berne. The Town-hall is full of emblems, inscriptions and bad paintings.

From Moudon to Vevay, is a pleasant, inclosed country of corn and pastures, varied with woods of fir and oak, 'till you come to the long and steep descent to Vevay, which is between vineyards.

If you take the other route, you will arrive at **FRIBOURG*** in two hours and three quarters. This city, which is the capital of the Canton, is in a singular situation on the bank of the river Sane, which incloses it on two sides: a very small part of it is on the plain; the rest is on a rock. The streets are wide and clean: the buildings, especially the convents, handsome. The Cathedral, in the middle of the city, is the most remarkable edifice; large, and much adorned both within and without: the great portal is decorated with many statues of saints; and over it is a lofty tower. The Jesuit's convent is in the highest part of the city; so that you ascend to it some hundred steps. The

* Inn, les Merciers.

convent of Augustins has a magnificent altar : and in that of the Cordeliers is a representation of the dance of death. The Ursuline nuns make and sell artificial flowers and bead work.

The river Sane runs in a deep bed at the foot of very steep rocks. The Town-house is built on one of these rocks, where the castle formerly stood.

A league from Fribourg, towards Berne, is a curious *Hermitage* called *la Madelaine*, hewn out of the living rock : it is a complete convent with a church and steeple, a sacristy, refectory, kitchen, chambers, cellar, &c.

Fribourg was admitted into the Helvetic confederacy in 1481. The sovereign authority is in the council of two hundred. The little council of twenty four, in which resides the executive power ; and the secret council of sixty, are subdivisions of the great council.

The population of this canton is estimated at 60000, besides 6000 in the capital. The eastern part is chiefly pasture ; the rest is tolerably fertile in corn and fruit. Cattle and cheese are the principal articles of exportation. Estavayer, Romont, Bulle and Gruyeres are the chief towns. In this state, as in that of Berne, one part speaks Patois, or Romand, a corrupt French, with some Latin ; the other a bastard German.

Their

Their military force consists in four companies of burgesſes, and eleven of militia.

The Roman Catholic is the established Religion, and no other is tolerated. The titular Bishop of Laufanne resides at Fribourg.

You will be three hours and three quarters in going to Bulle; and it will take five hours to reach Vevay, by a rapid descent, through a wild country, affording variety of romantic views.

VEVAY* is the capital of a bailliage belonging to Berne, very rich in vineyards. It is tolerably built, stretching along the side of the lake of Geneva, at the distance of half a league from the foot of the Alps, at the centre of a deep *gorge*, or opening, formed by the Vevayſe. The number of inhabitants in 1764 was 3350. They have watch-makers, jewellers and tanners among them, and they make good hats. The resort of French protestants has contributed much to render this place flourishing. There are many good houses here; a handsome *hotel de ville*; a public walk, with rows of trees; a great castle, mean enough; a large pleasant market-place by the lake; two churches; and a college. The country being delightful, the air soft, the prospects agreeable,

* Inns, Ville de Londres, excellent. Trois Couronnes.

and much good company residing in it: many persons have been induced to fix their residence in Vevay.

The mountains rise from the town in form of an amphitheatre: the lower part of them covered with vineyards; half way up some castles, *campagnes* and farm-houses; above these, woods, fields and meadows; on the brow, thick forests: on the other side you look across the lake, which is here three leagues over, to the dark rocks of Meillerie: in the distance are the glaciers of the Valais, the mouth of the Rhone, and the steep slope of a fertile country with villages.

In order to go into the Valais, and from thence to the glaciers of Savoy; you coast the lake to its extremity: you pass through *la-Tour-de-Peil* to *Clarens*, which has a very picturesque appearance from the road, but consists only of a few thatched cottages, with a rock hanging over them.

Two leagues farther is the castle of *Chillon*, built on a rock, in the lake, upon a peninsula; with scarcely room for a road between the castle and the mountain. It has three courts, with galleries, battlements, loopholes, &c. and was very strong, before the invention of artillery; but it is entirely commanded by the mountain.

mountain. When the Bernois conquered the Pays de Vaud; this, and the castle of Yverdun, were the only places that made any resistance.

Between Vevay and this castle, you pass through the parish of *Moutru*, consisting of about twenty farms, dispersed about the hills, among the vineyards. It is divided among three commons, which alone are sufficient for the support of the commoners*. They make excellent cheese, and the vintage begins sooner than in the rest of the Pays de Vaud.

Half a league beyond the castle of Chillon is *Villeneuve*, a little town, consisting of one long, wide street, situated at the head of the lake of Geneva, near where the Rhone enters it. From Vevay to this place, the mountains are one continued cultivation of vineyard and orchard, with forest trees above them: the grounds and habitations are disposed in the most picturesque manner, and there are frequent cascades tumbling from rock to rock.

You now quit the lake, and go south by Roche to Aigle, two leagues from Villeneuve. At *Roche* you must get a ticket from the director, if you would see the *souterrains* of the

* Rousseau's *Heloise*, part v. letter 2.

salt-works near Bex. A little beyond this town are quarries of black, brown and white, and red and white marble.

As soon as you leave Villeneuve, you enter a deep valley, a league wide, with the Swiss Alps on one side, and those of Savoy on the other; and traversed by the Rhone. The road, which is very good, lies almost close under the Swiss mountains: these are generally covered with shrubs or trees, and their ruggedness contrasts admirably with the extreme fertility of the valley, which is a chain of meadows till you come to Aigle, where there are vineyards.

AIGLE*, is a large *bourg*, built chiefly of black marble, which gives it a dismal appearance. The governor's castle is on an eminence above it. The *Salines*, or salt-works are at a little distance from the town; the graduation-house is 900 feet long; the water is pumped up to the top of this building by fourteen pumps, which are worked by a wheel 32 feet in diameter: hence it drips through a vast layer of thorns into wooden vessels at the bottom, resembling great brewing coolers, 'till it is of sufficient strength for the boiling-house.

* Inn, Maison de ville, Croix blanche. Time from Vevey two hours, 45 minutes.

Here,

Here, and in the other works at Bex, they do not make above 10,000 quintals of salt, which is about a tenth part of the whole consumption of the canton of Berne; the rest they have from Savoy and France. The salt water is weak, containing only one in a hundred, as it comes from the spring.

Goitres, or swelled necks begin here to be not uncommon; though neither so frequent, nor so enormous as in the Valais. Ideots, whom they call *Cretins*, are numerous. This disorder has a connection with the *goitre*, and probably proceeds from the same cause. The body becomes dwarfish; the physiognomy ugly and unenlightened, and the mind is deprived of all its powers: in some subjects there remains nothing but slow and awkward motion, with a vacant grin upon the countenance, to show that the *cretin* is a living animal. It is certain that these disorders are not owing to snow or tufa in the waters, or to any peculiar diet or mode of living. They are* absolutely local both here and wherever else I have had an opportunity of observing them; and in this place, at least, seem to be occasioned by some exhalations from neighbouring marshes, which are regularly driven into a corner among the

mountains, where they stagnate all day, and return upon the town towards evening.

The mountains between Aigle and Bex are very picturesque and romantic.

BEX* is a considerable town, and its fairs and markets are much frequented. It is in a large plain, abounding in corn and pastures: the Avançon, a large rapid brook, runs through it: the ruins of a castle yet remain on an eminence.

The *souterrains* of the salt-works are at a place called the *Fondemont*; and the graduation buildings and coppers are at Bevieux, upon the same construction with those at Aigle. The *souterrains*, dug 3000 feet within the earth are really very curious: it will take an hour and half to ride there, the same time to survey them, and an hour to return.

From Bex it is only half a league to the entrance of the Valais, at the bridge of St. Maurice. This bridge is of one arch only, 100 feet wide, and full 70 feet above the bed of the river: it abuts on the extremities of two lofty mountains, which have been rent or worn just as much as was necessary to let the

* Inn, l'Ours. Time an hour and half.

Rhone escape here, as it does again, below Geneva, at fort l'Ecluse, between mount Jura and the Vouache. On the middle of this bridge is a tower, with a gate on each side, to separate the two sovereignties of Berne and the Valais. The former keep a miserable guard here, who demand passports; and there is a sorry chapel, in which the Bernois permit the Valaisans to say mass, on condition of their keeping the bridge in repair.

At the end of the bridge begins the *bourg* of *St. Maurice*. It is built against an almost perpendicular rock of a prodigious height; between this and the Rhone that roars below, there is scarcely room for a narrow street, which is long and well built: a clear stream waters it the whole length, running in a large channel lined with marble. It is defended by a tower at the foot of the bridge; and is flanked by a wall seven or eight feet high, next the river.

Not far from this town is the grand and picturesque cascade of *Pissevache*: the height of the fall is 200 feet; and the mass of water is fine, especially after rains. Hence you come to MARTIGNI or MARTINACH*, situated in

* Ign, la Maison grande. Time from Bex, 3 hours 30 minutes.

a little plain, surrounded by high mountains, on the banks of the river Dranse. The town is ill built, and the streets filthy; the *bourg*, which is a mile farther, is cleaner and better built. The fairs which are held here, and its central situation, render it flourishing. The south leads to Italy, by mount St. Bernard; the north-west into Swisserland; the west into Savoy; and the north-east to Sion, to the baths of Leuk, and to the Milanese by the Simplon. Here all merchandize that passes between the Valais and Italy is deposited. Over against the town, on a high and steep rock, is a castle, belonging to the bishops of Sion, but now in ruins.

If you come in a carriage, you must now quit it, and hire mules with guides*. To each muletier you will pay 25 batz † a day, for himself and his beast, besides the keep of both.

You will soon quit the high road to Italy, and mount incessantly in a narrow stony way,

* You will be 8 hours and 30 minutes, in going to Chamouni, and there is no place to sleep at in the way; except for one person or two in the little inn at Trient, which is near; and that is more than can be said of the Maison grande.

† Something more than 3 shillings.

above

above two hours. This mountain is covered with walnut and chefnut trees. If you turn round to take breath, you will have a view of the whole vale of Sion---a regular oblong of verdure, six leagues in length, and one in breadth, furrounded with high mountains: the Rhone cutting it through the middle, making an infinity of windings, and fertile islets. Forests, meadows, pastures, present themselves to the eye, drawn in miniature. A blue mountain closes the scene abruptly: the white castle and houses of Sion, which are placed against it, can hardly be distinguished.

When you are arrived at the summit, you look down upon the little valley, and scattered village of *Trient*, with a great white torrent foaming through it. By a hollow and difficult path, among dark firs, you descend in a quarter of an hour to the village. A great glacier overhangs, and seems to threaten the destruction of this sequestered valley. The cold is intense in winter, and their low wooden houses are sometimes covered with snow. The torrent also occupies a great portion of the valley, and sometimes does them considerable damage.

Hence

Hence you mount rapidly again by the *Tête Noire*; not unaptly named. Two black mountains dart up into the clouds; the opening between them no wider than is necessary for the torrent, which roars in the bottom. On each side innumerable fragments of rock, in all forms and colours. A steep path, accessible only to mules, creeps through these ruins, along the side of the mountain. The opposite precipice presents the same objects. The black torrent in the bottom, roaring over the ruins which are incessantly falling into it, drives furiously along.

To *Tête Noire* other mountains succeed, of the same dark complexion. The village of *Finio*, the last in the Valais, will fix your attention on the right. It is on a lofty platform, which being covered with pastures and corn-fields, contrasts finely with the dark firs and rocks surrounding it. The mountain being cut perpendicularly, *Finio* and its lands seem suspended in the air.

You will now soon pass the limits of the Valais; entering Savoy through a gateway.

In

In two hours and an half you will arrive at Valorfine, the first village of that country. Here you will find a dirty inn, with indifferent accommodations.

This valley is near 800 yards higher than that of Chamouni. It is much too small and poor to furnish food for its inhabitants. Their lands are entirely worked by hand, and it is the women who perform the chief of this business: the men either keep cattle upon the mountains of the Tarentaise, or cultivate the vineyards in the Valais. The snow falls in September, and lasts 'till May; they have a short Summer therefore to sow, to get in their grain, fruit and fodder, to cut their wood for fuel, and to take their honey. Every possession in these vallies would be liable to be overwhelmed by the *Avalanches*, or falls of frozen snow from the mountains, were it not for the ramparts of stone which they raise to protect themselves. They are forbid also to cut the woods in certain places, because these are an effectual stop to this calamity.

In three hours and an half you will ride from Valorfine to the Priory of CHAMOUNI. You pass by *Argentiere*, over which a great glacier

glacier hangs suspended, that some years since made great advances on the village, and actually destroyed part of it.

The accommodations are very good at Chamouni; the inhabitants are good people, and not uninformed; the glaciers are at no great distance, and very accessible; there is a great variety of fine views; and you are at the foot of Mont Blanc, which is not only the highest point of the old world, but one of the most remarkable objects in it.

The valley of Chamouni is three leagues in length, and a quarter of a league in breadth. High mountains, covered with thick woods, surround it on all sides. The river Arve winds through corn fields and meadows; little woods of pines and larches are scattered along the side of it: the gardens and meadows are neatly inclosed with little palisades: the village is in the centre; the houses are all of wood, larger and neater than those of Valorsine, but in the same style of building. They usually grow corn enough for their consumption; and they have plenty of good pasture, both in the valley, and among the mountains which
environ

environ it: they have woods even in the midst of their snows; whilst the ice descends to the very fields which they sow with grain. Their honey is the most delicious in the world. The air is pure, and the sky serene; but their winter lasts full seven months, and all that time they have little employment, there being no sort of manufacture among them. They use this vacant time to instruct themselves and their children, most of whom can read and even write, at four or five years of age.

Crossing the plain from the inn, you will ascend the *Montanvert*: for an hour you may use your mules; though even they can scarcely find place for their feet, among the huge blocks of stone, which almost cover the soil between the trees. Having rode as far as you conveniently can, you will proceed an hour and half more on foot, in a very rugged path, through woods of larch trees, among which you will see immense swarms of bees. At length you surmount the region of trees, and come to sweet and abundant pastures. Here you may seat yourself, and contemplate at your leisure the glacier of *Montanvert*, far beneath you; its pyramids, its plains of undulating ice, its blue clefts: you will also

also find a convenient cabin, in which you may take some refreshment, and shelter yourself in case of a storm. You will hear frequently the shrill whistle of the Marmot; and the glacier will sometimes call your attention, by the crashing sounds of fragments or masses of ice rolling down the glazed slope, and breaking into millions of small pieces at the bottom. Having satisfied your curiosity here, you descend, and arrive at the inn in two hours.

You will ride in an hour to the *Glacier of Bossons*. Having scrambled over the mound of stones and earth that borders it, you will at first find some difficulty in keeping your feet upon the ice; but by a little practice you will soon be able to walk alone; or if not, you may have irons fastened to the soles of your shoes; these they call *crampans*, and they effectually prevent you from slipping. This Glacier is not only the most accessible, but one of the most curious. It is not the widest, but it descends without interruption from Mont Blanc itself, and affords all the variety of objects which we meet with in the Glacier; the lofty walls and towers, the waving seas, and the tremendous fissures. You may either content yourself with

with crossing a large plain of ice, near six hundred yards higher than the vale of Chamouni ; or you may descend all the way by the side of the Glacier, and thus have a near view of its different parts ; but this descent is attended with some difficulty. You will be an hour in crossing the icy plain, from which you step immediately into a wood, where you may gather strawberries.

One of the most interesting objects here is the magnificent vault of ice, at the foot of the Glacier on which you look down from the Montanvert, and from whence the river Arveron takes its source. The access to it seems blocked up by huge masses of rock wildly thrown about ; you may, however, ride up almost to the mouth. Within, immense blocks of transparent ice are scattered about the floor, warning you to trust yourself with caution to the brittle arch over your head. From the farther part of the cavern, boils forth melted ice, forming rivulets that meander all about it. In different years, it is said to put on very different appearances. It exposes itself to view only during a short time ; for till the end of July, or the beginning of August, nothing appears,

pears, but a rude mass of ice walling up the cavern: at length this falls, and all at once opens to view this beautiful vault; which has been, not unaptly, termed, the Temple of the god of Frost.

The valley of Chamouni being too near Mont Blanc, to give a sufficient view of that and the other great objects which surround it, you must ascend some eminence, from which you may survey them to advantage. The *Buet* * is the most proper for this purpose; but the difficulty of ascending this mountain is very great; the time it will take up is considerable; and there are very few days in which you will have a clear and distinct view from such prodigious eminences. From the *Col de Balme* you will discern clearly the vale of Chamouni; the needles or sharp summits darting into the sky from the tops of the Glaciers; the *Buet*, which seems to be very near; and Mont Blanc towering majestically above every other object, with its vast white domes. You see the great passages into Italy, by Mount Cenis, St. Gothard, and the Simplon, with the whole chain of the Alps in general. This mountain is bare of trees, but co-

* This mountain is about 10,000 English feet perpendicular above the Mediterranean.

vered with excellent pasture. If you return into the Valais, you may go this way, without passing through Valorsine.

Some of the guides in the vale of Chamouni are very civil and intelligent. The great ambition of these men has been to reach the summit of Mont Blanc †. In 1775 Michel Pacard and three others made a bold attempt, which they were obliged to give up, after 22 hours march. Since that time several other unsuccessful efforts have been made: but at length one Jaques Balma, having lost his way, and being obliged to wander all night towards the top of the mountain; in the morning made such observations, as induced him to think he should be able to overcome all difficulties. Accordingly on the seventh of August 1786, he in company with Dr. Pacard, passed the night on the mountain of la Côte; and the day following reached the long wished for summit of Mont Blanc, at half an hour past six in the

† The height is 15662 English feet, or very near three miles. The pike of Teneriffe is only 266 feet lower. Chimborazo the highest point of the Cordilleras is 20628 feet. Canigou, the highest of the Pyrenees is only 9222 feet. Ben-nevis, the highest mountain in Scotland is only 4387; and Snowdon in Wales, no more than 3555 feet high.

evening, after above fourteen hours fatiguing march, and encountering a thousand difficulties.

From Chamouni you may reach Geneva in one day, by setting out early. You follow the course of the Arve, and go by Salenche. The height of the mountains gradually diminishes, and the vallies are pleasantly diversified. Salenche is at the end of a wide valley, where it contracts to a narrow pass. Hence it is almost a level plain to Geneva. Near Maglan there is a fine fall of water, called the cascade of Arpenas. Cluse is in a rich plain by the Arve. Hence you come down the river to Bonneville, the capital of Faucigny. You enter the territory of Geneva, by the village of Chêne.

The dress of the female peasants throughout Swisserland is in general stays or bodice and petticoat fastened together, without any gown over them; so that the shift sleeves always appear; and a long, wide coarse apron. They commonly wear stockings without feet, and slippers. The manner of dressing the head varies in every district. In the Canton of Berne the hair hangs down in two long plaits behind, with a ribband to each extending to the bottom of the petticoat, which is very short, scarcely
cover-

covering the knees. In some other cantons, the plaits of hair are wound round the head, and fastened with a metal skewer. In great part of the Canton of Berne, the women wear a pretty straw hat, either plain or trimmed. From about Payerne all the way to Bex, their straw hats are large, heavy, with a great crown and steeple, upon the whole much resembling a bee-hive. In the Valais, on the contrary, they are very small, prettily trimmed, and put on with a smart air, a little on one side. The men here wear straw hats, as well as the women, and even trimmed with ribbands; as they do also about Morat and Bienne. On the other hand, in the valley of Chamouni, the women wear men's felt hats.

The most considerable Manufactures of Swisserland, are printed linnens and cottons, which they call *Indiennes*; watch-making at Geneva and Chaud-de-Fond; crape, silk and ribbands at Zuric; and linnen at St. Gall; which of late years has much increased, and extended to other places. They also make coarse woollen cloths for peasants in some places: they export horned cattle; and horses for foreign cavalry and artillery: their cheese

is

is sent into many parts of Europe ; several sorts being much esteemed—as the Gruyeres, Perfil, &c. and one, which they scent with blue melilot. Wine is exported, but in no great quantities : some cantons import it from Alsace, Suabia and France. It is well known that Swisserland does not produce corn enough for home consumption. There are a few other exports of small consequence : as medicinal herbs, which the mountains produce of the best quality, cherry-water or spirit of cherries, Juniper water, &c.

The productions of Swisserland, in the inclosures and open fields are : vines, wheat, *epeautre* or spelt, rie, barley, oats, buckwheat, beans, peas, mayz Indian or Turkey wheat, millet, sorghum, tares, lentils, hemp, flax, potatoes, turneps, kidney-beans, pompions, poppies, woad, madder, tobacco, lucerne and clover.

Vegetation of trees and shrubs is found to cease in the Alps of Faucigny, at the height of 6478 French feet above the Mediterranean. After this, there are only low small herbs, except a few alpine plants, which are in their proper element. Marmots are abundant at
this

this height. Cornua Ammonis have been found in this country 7864 feet above the sea; and these, with echini, and various other exuviae of marine animals, occur in several mountains of Swisserland, as high, if not higher, than this.

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